

dividend and our share buybacks next year and the year after that and the year after that."

So where are the jobs?

May I cite one other example. Lowering the corporate tax rate was said to be an incentive for corporations to invest. Well, here is one of the great American corporations.

Are they investing?

I think not. They are buying back stock.

AT&T, another major American corporation, effectively reduced its tax rate to 8 percent over the last decade. So they are paying not 21 percent, as this bill would require. They are paying 8 percent.

Did they create jobs?

No. During that same period of time, they laid off 80,000 workers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Mr. RASKIN, if he would like to make a few closing remarks, and then I will wrap up.

□ 1830

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, once again, for this opportunity and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman makes a superb point. We are at a point of record corporate profits. The corporations are swimming in profits and in cash, and if they wanted to be employing more people, they could be employing more people now.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, they could be raising wages. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, or raising wages. They could do it right now.

All that we are doing is bestowing more of a bonus on them so they can give more money away to the CEOs. In the stock dividends and in the stock buybacks, it is cash gains within the corporations, so they are going to get wealthier. There is no reason to begrudge that. It is a large part of a lot of people's dreams to make a lot of money, but let's not press a good joke too far.

They are making tons of money right now, and we have got serious needs in the country. We have got an infrastructure crisis. Our roads and our highways and our metro systems and our water systems are suffering—our schools, our universities, our community colleges.

Why not invest in some common things that bring us together as a society, rather than having highway robbery from above against the rest of the country? It is just incomprehensible to me.

I have got to believe this is something to do with the corruption of our campaign finance regime. People are talking about: Well, we are waiting for the contributions to come in, and that they are telling us on the phone they don't want to give us contributions until we pass the tax bill.

So give them hundreds of billions, drive us into trillions of dollars in debt, and then they will give us back hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions. It is a bad

deal. That is why a lot of parts of the country are moving to public financing now, because it is remarkable how much damage you could do to the country on the cheap with a relatively small investment. After the Supreme Court's decision in 2010, in the Citizens United case, redefining corporations as political citizens, now the CEOs can take money directly out of the corporate treasury and put it into politics.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, from their own mouth comes from the truth of what Mr. RASKIN said. They have said it very clearly, they need to do this for their contributors.

Who are their contributors? Well, the wealthy, the superwealthy, and the rest.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are going to wrap it up here. I want to thank Mr. RASKIN for his participation. I want to thank my colleagues who came to the floor tonight to express their dismay at what has happened.

Now, because the bill was rushed through without any public hearings, there were errors in the bill that require that the Senate take the approved conference committee report and modify it, which I suppose means there has to be yet another conference committee, modify it, remove the errors that are in conflict with the Senate rules, and send it back here. Presumably, that will be done tomorrow.

Maybe now, as we bring to the attention of the American public the way in which this tax bill is harmful to the economy, harmful to the American middle class, and will result in 83 million Americans immediately paying higher taxes, and over the period of time, everybody that is less than \$100,000, maybe \$150,000, will be paying higher taxes, but the wealthy and the corporations will go on and have their lower taxes for many, many years to come, all of that hopefully will begin to sink in on the American public, and they will rise up in indignation and call a halt to what is a major rip-off of the American Treasury and America's future.

So we will continue to talk about this in the days ahead, and those who have voted for this are going to be held responsible and accountable as the days and the months go by.

Keep in mind that the Texas Two-Step is very much in play, and that, in the days ahead, in the next year, as the weather warms, the returned migration of the deficit hawks will take place, and they will go after Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, education, children's health, and other programs that men and women of America rely upon, and perhaps many, many more.

We will be fighting this fight for many months to come.

Mr. Speaker, keeping in mind the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING HASKELL MONROE, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH). Under the Speaker's

announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Haskell Monroe, Jr., of Bryan-College Station, Texas, who passed away on November 13, 2017.

Haskell Monroe, Jr., was born in Dallas, Texas, on March 18, 1931. He was the only child of Haskell Monroe, Sr., and Myrtle Monroe.

The family of three lived in Garland, Texas, until Haskell, Jr., was ten, when they moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas, because of his father's job with the United States Department of War. They lived there for 2 years before moving to Orange, Texas, where the family resided through Haskell's high school years.

During his high school years, Haskell was an active member of the band, the track and field team, the football team, and he was a member of the Boy Scouts. His experience at schools in both Garland and Orange fostered a love of learning that lasted throughout his life.

After graduating from high school in 1948, he went on to Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where he continued his involvement in track and field and football. He graduated from Austin College in 1952, with a bachelor's degree in both history and English.

After graduation, he started graduate school at Austin College working to earn his master's in history. While working during his master's degree, Haskell began teaching at nearby Denison High School. He taught history at Denison and found his lifelong calling to be an educator while he was working there.

In 1954, Haskell enlisted in the United States Navy. He served for 3 years in the Navy, and while in the Navy, Haskell's passion for teaching never wavered, and he continued to teach while stationed in South Carolina. There, he taught English to visiting Japanese sailors and volunteered as an assistant coach for a local high school football team.

Haskell completed his service and was discharged from the Navy in 1956. Shortly thereafter, he met the love of his life, Margaret Joann Phillips, known as Jo. The two met while Haskell was working on historical research in North Carolina. On June 15, 1957, Jo and Haskell were married.

In addition to 78 years of love and happiness, the marriage produced four children: Stephen, Melanie, Mark, and John; and eight grandchildren.

The Monroes moved to Houston after their wedding in order for Haskell to pursue a Ph.D. in history at Rice University. They eventually moved to the Bryan-College Station area in 1959. One of his doctoral professors at Rice, Dr. Frank Vandiver, who would himself one day become the president at Texas A&M University, helped Haskell get his first job.

With Dr. Vandiver's recommendation, Haskell became a professor of history at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. This initial position was the beginning of a decades-long career both as a professor and as an administrator.

One of his early contributions to Texas A&M was his appointment to the Texas A&M Aspirations Committee. This initiative was commissioned by then-President Earl Rudder to recommend changes to the university to put the institution on sound footing for the future.

Among the recommendations to come out of this committee were the admission of female students, non-compulsory membership in the Corps of Cadets, racial integration, higher admission standards, and input that led to changing the name of the university to Texas A&M University.

Haskell left Texas A&M, in 1980, to become president at the University of Texas-El Paso, commonly known as UTEP.

After 7 years at UTEP, he became the chancellor at the University of Missouri, where he remained until 1993.

Under his leadership, both schools reached new heights as academic institutions, enrolling record numbers of students, increasing minority student populations, and molding many National Merit Award scholars.

In his down time, Haskell enjoyed collecting postcards from towns where he had lived and visited while traveling, especially the back roads of the United States and Mexico, and learning history through commemorative bricks, plaques, and roadside markers in historical places.

He also shared his father's passion for woodworking and was known to create many pieces for his friends and his family.

A member of the local community, Haskell was a member of the Rotary Club and served on boards of the United Way, Salvation Army, and Boy Scouts. He was also a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church, where he also served as an elder and an ordained deacon.

Mr. Speaker, Haskell Monroe worked tirelessly to teach young people and to give back to his community. He is loved by our Bryan-College Station community, and he left an enduring impression on the entire State of Texas. He will be forever remembered as a great educator, colleague, philanthropist, community leader, husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Monroe family. We also lift up the family and friends of Dr. Monroe in our prayers.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the Capitol to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Haskell Monroe, Jr.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our

military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING ROBERT "POPEYE" CARTER

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Staff Sergeant Robert Carter of Waco, Texas, better known as Popeye to his friends. He passed away on November 26, 2017.

Popeye was born in 1953 and grew up in the Waco area. In 1972, he graduated from Richfield High School. After graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Geni Kay Reeves. Popeye also heard the call to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Army in 1972.

He was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, where he patrolled the Czech border during the Cold War. He served on Active Duty from 1972 to 1975.

After his Active-Duty service was up, Popeye served in the Army Reserves from 1975 to 1995, and all his career in the Army spanned 23 years.

In November 1990, Popeye was called into Active Duty with his reserve unit. The unit shipped off to fight in the Gulf war. His unit was placed on the front lines, incurring heavy artillery fire throughout their time in the Gulf.

He returned to the United States, where he soon found out that he was suffering from what became known as Gulf War Syndrome. The aftermath of the war affected Popeye for the rest of his life.

After Popeye's service, he came back home to Waco and served as a mechanic for 30 years. Always wanting to give back, he began volunteering to help local veterans at the Veterans One-stop, which offers support services to veterans to help them reintegrate into society and provide them with an outlet to meet other veterans in the area. He was known as someone who would help anyone in need, often anonymously.

A man of great faith, Popeye believed strongly in God and used his faith to carry him through life. He openly shared his faith with others and believed in helping those in spiritual need just as much as those with physical wounds.

After the passing of his first wife, he married and enjoyed a new beginning with his wife, Roxanne Carter. Together, their family had a son and three daughters, as well as ten grandchildren, all of whom Popeye loved dearly.

In 2013, Popeye was nominated by the members of our community for the Texas 17th Congressional District Veteran Commendation award. It was an honor to bestow this unique award that recognized his selfless service to both our Nation and to our central Texas community.

In his free time, Popeye enjoyed the outdoors, and he loved to fish. He was also an avid motorcyclist and was routinely seen riding his Harley Davidson with friends.

A dedicated family man, Popeye loved to spend time with his family and

looked forward to dinners every Monday night, where his immediate family would gather to enjoy food and fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, selfless service to all those around him defined Popeye Carter's life. He worked tirelessly to defend our freedom and to better our Waco community. He is loved by his city, and he certainly left an enduring impression on all of central Texas.

He will be forever remembered as a selfless soldier, a philanthropist, a community member, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and a friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Carter family. We also lift up the family and friends of Popeye Carter in our prayers.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over the Capitol to honor the life and legacy of Robert "Popeye" Carter.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from threats abroad, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING CALVIN "RYAN" COFFER

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Calvin "Ryan" Coffey of Bryan, Texas, who passed away on October 24, 2017.

Ryan Coffey was born on September 22, 1983. From a young age, he was involved in the Boy Scouts and achieved the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

True to his Texas roots, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and loved watching football, especially the Dallas Cowboys and the fighting Texas Aggies, especially with his grandmother, Mimi.

□ 1845

Growing up, Ryan spent many days working alongside his father in a local theater company, a small performance theater in Brazos Valley.

True to his nature, Ryan put duty before himself. He felt a call, and he answered it by serving his country in the United States Marine Corps. He enlisted as an infantryman. Ryan was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines and, later, to the 5th Headquarters Company based in Camp Pendleton, California. During his service, he deployed three times, once to Japan and twice to Iraq.

Ryan was a well-decorated Marine and rose to the rank of staff sergeant. His awards include the Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Gold Star, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Part of his duties included being a zodiac fast assault specialist, a squad leader, and a marksman instructor. On his second deployment to Iraq, he was tasked with providing security to General David Petraeus.

Ryan embodied the core values of being a United States Marine, and he

felt that his true mission was to make sure his squad made it home safely.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Ryan set a goal to attend college at Texas A&M University. He was accepted into Texas A&M, and he planned to attend the university after holding out one semester to work and to save money for school. Ryan embodied the core values of Texas A&M through his spirit of selfless service, leadership, loyalty, and integrity.

Unfortunately, the toll of his military service manifested itself in the form of PTSD, which, unfortunately, went undiagnosed. As the long-term effects of war began to grow within him, he ultimately became another victim of PTSD, and his life ended far too early.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Coffey worked tirelessly to serve our country as well as family and friends. He is loved by our Bryan-College Station community, and he left an enduring impression on the Brazos Valley. Ryan will be forever remembered as a courageous Marine, leader, loving son, community member, and friend.

My wife, Gina, and I lift up our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Coffey family. We also lift up Ryan's family and friends in our prayers.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over the Capitol to honor the life and legacy of Ryan Coffey.

As I close today, I ask all Americans to continue to pray for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from threats overseas, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOB AMMON

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Lieutenant Colonel Bob Ammon of Waco, Texas, who passed away on September 28, 2017.

Bob was born in West Reading, Pennsylvania, on February 28, 1924. He would spend his early years in West Reading, growing up in what he described as an "average American home." He grew up with an older brother, Jim, and a younger sister, Marjorie.

In 1941, Bob was a senior in high school when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Not being old enough for the draft, Bob was still determined to serve his country and contribute to the war effort. In 1942, he decided to take the aviation exam to become a pilot in the United States Army. He passed the exam and, on August 25, 1942, he was sworn into the Army.

He was called into Active Duty in 1943, beginning flight training in Santa Ana, California, and completing his training at Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

After graduating from flight school, Bob was assigned to Mather Air Force Base to begin training as a B-25 bomber pilot. In 1944, he began bombing runs with the 11th Bomb Squadron, who were fighting to dismantle the Japanese occupation of China. He flew 21

bombing missions in China and participated in combat during the Battle of Hanoi Harbor.

After his service in World War II, Bob reenlisted during the Korean war. In Korea, he flew an astounding 43 bombing missions and earned a Purple Heart for wounds that he suffered after being shot down over North Korea.

Bob again reenlisted to serve when the Vietnam war broke out. He never missed combat in any of the wars he fought in, and he was proud of his military service until the day he passed.

While stationed at James Connolly Air Force Base, Bob met a beautiful woman named Ann at the Officers' Club, and they married in 1952. They enjoyed 64 years of marriage together and raised three sons—Steve, Bob, and Jeff—all of whom graduated from Baylor University in Waco.

Though he was often traveling, Bob made a point to be there for his sons and to make sure they were being raised well. He was known as a loving father who raised his sons with a steady hand, and he passed on his love of flying, golf, and family to his three sons. Today, his legacy includes 25 family members, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bob was a patriotic man and always flew the American flag outside his home in Waco. He always made a point to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem, even as his health began to fail him late in life.

Bob was known for giving back to the local community, and he had a strong faith in God. Bob served in a position of leadership at the Covenant Church for 27 years. He was well-known for greeting parishioners with a smile at the doors of the church. His friendly and welcoming manner will surely be missed at Covenant Church.

Mr. Speaker, Bob worked tirelessly to protect our country, to raise a strong family, and to serve our Waco community. He is loved by his friends and family, and he left an enduring impression on all of central Texas. He will be forever remembered as an American hero, a great community member, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, and a friend.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Ammon family. We also lift up the family and friends of Bob in our prayers.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the Capitol to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel Bob Ammon.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us abroad, and for our first responders who protect us from threats here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, as we try to get the boards to line up, we are only going to do three of these today.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I wanted to do tonight, and we did it during sort of the debate earlier today—I hear lots of the discussions from our brothers and sisters on the left about the tax bill, and we often tease that this place is often a math-free zone, but I wanted to actually go a little bit bigger on why this tax bill is actually so crucial to every American, whether you be on the left, on the right, or just out there working as hard as you can and not thinking about politics.

The chart I have right on the side, this is what our nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has come up with as our economic growth future. If you take a look over here, you will see 1.8 percent GDP growth for the next 10 years. But we then skyrocket up to just, actually, if you saw the details, just slightly under 2. And then the next decade, so 30 years from now, we fall back down to 1.9 percent GDP growth.

Why this is crucial is, as baby boomers are retiring, we have lots of promises. You have heard discussions, just even someone that was behind the microphone 40 minutes ago, on the other side, talking about Medicare.

There are estimates out there that, over the 75-year actuarial window, Medicare is \$105 trillion underfunded. It is the largest unfunded liability we know in America and, possibly, the world. This is what happens when you are growing at 1.8 percent GDP.

If you love people, if you want this society to have an opportunity to keep its promises to our seniors, to our kids, to that working family, we must have economic growth.

I talked about this earlier today, a terrific editorial in The Wall Street Journal over this weekend, saying, hey, from the left's eyes, they think about equality, income inequality, and from the Republican side, we often sound like accountants. And I am sorry, but the math is important.

We think about economic growth because, if you look at the next chart, I just want you to sort of look at the very, very end. You see this sort of gold line, green line, the other green line. Do you see the separation? That is income inequality. It has grown dramatically in the last decade.

We have also grown at only 1.8 percent GDP the last decade. Slow economic expansion is where you get the income inequality.

If the left here actually cared about the very issue they talk about all the time, they would be embracing tax bills, regulatory bills, things that would actually expand the size of this economy so everyone has a fighting chance. But you find the politics of division very powerful around here.